

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1916.

34TH ANNUAL REPORT.

Tettenhall Local Board Constituted	...	...	...	1883
Population Census, 1891	...	...	...	5145
" " 1901	...	...	...	5337
" " 1911	...	...	...	5381
Inhabited Houses, 1891	...	...	...	1056
" " 1901	...	...	...	1176
" " 1911	...	...	...	1225
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	...	1220
Adoption of Bye-Laws	...	...	...	1887
" " Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	1887
" " Notification Act	...	...	...	1889
" " Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, (the whole)	...	...	...	1891
Sewerage Works commenced 1890, finished	...	...	...	1892
Isolation Hospital Provided	...	...	...	1891
Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1890, (the whole)	...	...	...	1891
Public Scavenging...	...	...	...	1897
Conversion of Sewerage Treatment	...	...	...	1900
Joint Small Pox Hospital Provided	...	...	...	1903
Special Committee to deal with Middens	...	...	...	1907
Extension of Sewage Farm	...	...	...	1910
Adoption of Notification of Phthisis	...	...	...	1911
" " " Ophthalmia Neonotorum	...	...	...	1911
" " " Poliomyelitis and Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1912
" of Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts)	...	...	...	1912
Shops' Act 1912 (Council to act as Agents for County Council.)	...	...	...	1912
Health Visitor	...	...	...	1915
Measles and Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1916
Notification of Births Act	...	...	...	1916



MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT FOR 1916.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Tettenhall Urban
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The Registrar General makes two estimates of our Population. He calculates the civilian population in 1916 as 5,276, which, with 62 deaths, would give a Death Rate of 11·7. But for purposes of Birth Rate, he estimates the Population by natural increase at 5,740, 300 more than I calculate. We have had 103 Births, and taking the Registrar General's figures, this would give a Birth Rate of 17·9, the same as last year.

Of the 103 Births, 49 were males, and 54 females, including 4 illegitimate children.

Of the 62 Deaths, 32 were males, and 30 females. The Death Rate of 11·7, is the lowest on record, but we have to remember that about 500 Tettenhall men have enlisted, and many have died for their Country in 1916.

There were 9 Transferable deaths, 4 in Hospital ; 2 at the Workhouse ; 1 in an Asylum ; and 2 from accident.

It is satisfactory to note that there was no Death from the Infectious Fevers.

There was 1 death from Diarrhoea, and 2 from Influenza ; 11 persons died from Tuberculous disease ; there were only 4 deaths from Pneumonia ; and 4 from Bronchitis. There was only one death from Parturition, and that was due to tubal gestation.

There were 5 deaths of Infants under 12 months, viz.— Premature Birth, 2; Broncho Pneumonia, 1; Diarrhoea, 1; Tubercular Meningitis, 1. Infantile Mortality is therefore 48·5, which is lower than ever.

SCHEDULED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

It should be remembered that Measles and Whooping Cough are now Notifiable (1st Jan. 1916). By Sec. 5, L.G.B. (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1916, Notification fees are reduced to one shilling, from 17th May, 1916.

Diphtheria	-	-	-	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	12
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	5
Measles	-	-	-	52
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	9
Puerperal Fever	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	1

Diphtheria.

Three cases were notified. In one, the Diphtheria bacillus was identified, and in two, negatived by bacteriological examination.

One case of Puerperal Fever, and one of Ophthalmia, (mother and child) were notified, and both happily got well.

Tuberculosis.

17 Notifications were received, one case being notified twice. 12 were cases of Tuberculosis of the Lung; 2 of Glands; 1 of Kidney; 1 Tubercular Meningitis; and 1 Acute Miliary Tubercle.

Of these 17 cases, 8 are now dead, viz.: Lung, 6; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Acute Miliary Tuberculosis, 1.

Measles. (Notifiable since 1st Jan. 1916).

There were 52 cases ; 125 visits were made by the Health Visitor. 37 cases were over 5 years of age, and 15 under 5.

The Finchfield Schools were closed for Measles from 21st Feb. to 6th March. A short closure of Tettenhall Wood Infant Schools was ordered from April 3—7, and was effective. The child in this case, lived outside the District.

Whooping Cough. (Notifiable since 1st Jan. 1916).

There were 9 cases of Whooping Cough, (5 under 5, and 4 over 5) to whom 13 visits were made by the Health Visitor.

Notification of Births (Extension) Act, 1915.

The subject is dealt with fully in my previous Report.

The Act became operative on 1st September, 1915, and my Council directed me to administer it on their behalf.

During the present year, considerable correspondence has taken place between our Clerk and the Clerk to the County Council, the Director of Education, and the Joint Tuberculosis Committee.

My Council had formulated a Scheme, and submitted it to the L.G.B. for approval on 24th October, 1915, and had appointed a Health Visitor in January, 1916.

Therefore, when Mr. Wilson Lovatt, (Vice-Chairman of the Council, and Chairman of the Roads and Sanitary Committee) the Clerk, and myself, attended a Conference at Stafford, on 8th April, 1916, and were invited to participate in the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, drawn up by the County Council, we had no mandate to acquiesce, as the Tettenhall Council had already made arrangements to administer the Act.

My Council had anticipated the County Council, and provided the necessary machinery.

On the lines indicated by the L.G.B. they had provided a Centre, a Medical Officer, and a Health Visitor.

They had directed me to attend at the Centre each Friday, from 10 to 12, to advise Mothers as to their own health, and the rearing of their children, (especially hand fed babies) till they attained School age. They had also ordered the appanages of the Clinic, in the way of Clinical records, scales, baskets, and towels.

It was felt that the Health Visitor would not be fully occupied by her duties under the Act, alone. She was directed to visit under the Measles Order, and also act as School Nurse and Tuberculosis Nurse, when we had the permission of the proper authorities. It is estimated that two-thirds of her time will be occupied in assisting at Clinics, and visiting lying-in-women, and newly born children, under the Notification of Births Act.

Her remaining time would be fully taken up during Measles epidemics, and individual attention to School children, and Tuberculosis cases in the intervals of visiting Infectious cases. From the Health Visitor's Books during 1916, I find she has registered 96 Births and transmitted copies to the County Medical Offices.

She has visited 86 lying-in women, and paid 479 visits to Infants.

As the Inspector to the L.G.B. has recently pointed out, it is her special duty to attend to hand fed babies, and see that they are reared on sensible methods, and that the value of her visits lie in making the mother understand what she is to do, and see that the directions are carried out, rather than in the number of visits.

By means of the reference cards, she will particularly devote her attention to artificially reared babies, and prevent infantile indigestion, and when the summer comes, guard against epidemic diarrhoea.

The Infantile Mortality of Tettenhall is already low. It has been 90·5 per 1,000 Births, and is now 48·5. It is hoped it will be further reduced by the personal attention of a qualified nurse.

In September, 1916, the L.G.B. sanctioned the Tettenhall Scheme, and since the first Friday in October, Clinics have been held in the Council Offices each week, with two exceptions.

The Clinic is in its infancy, and only started in the last quarter of the year, but I personally examined 27 out of the 103 babies born in 1916. [I am told that it is satisfactory if one third of the babies born in the year, attend the Clinic].

Of the children under 12 months, 15 were breast fed, 5 by breast and bottle, and 7 hand reared. Two babies had diarrhoea—one, breast fed—the other, hand fed. Twins fed on a patent food did not look well, and the mother would not be persuaded to alter the diet, and did not come again. One baby suffered from constipation, two had hernia, one impetigo, and one whooping cough.

I examined 21 children between 1 and 5, (within the limits provided by the Act). Two were consumptive, one had bronchitis, one enteritis, seven had skin disease, one adenoids, and one each hernia, blepharitis, ozæna, phimosis, and whitlow.

Seven mothers consulted me. Three had consumption, 2 insufficient milk, one pyorrhœa, (she triumphantly returned with all her teeth out as I advised) and one was sent to an Asylum.

Fifty five (55) cases examined and treated in these three months, came under the provisions of the Notification of Births Act.

The remaining 12 children were of School age. Two had enteritis, 4 consumption, 5 skin disease, and 1 tonsils and adenoids.

Of the 67 patients seen from Oct. to Dec. some were cured and some had their lot ameliorated by my Colleagues at the Hospital, the Doctors at the Tuberculosis Centre, kind friends like Miss E. Thorneycroft, or the personal attention of my Nurse and myself.

The state of the weather determines the number of attendances.

On 27th July, Dr. Priestley came to see me to arrange about the Health Visitor being appointed School Nurse by the Board of Education. He wanted little reporting, and begged the Health Visitor not to clash with doctors, or undermine parental responsibility. He wanted her efforts to be educative in the removal of dirt and vermin.

Schools.

The Health Visitor has paid 57 visits to the Schools, and attended 165 children.

At the Tettenhall Schools, there are 171 girls; 169 boys; and 123 infants on the Books. At Tettenhall Wood Schools, there are 144 Infants and 248 children in the Mixed Schools.

On 12th August, I saw Dr. Reid, who pointed out that information gathered by the Health Visitor in tuberculosis cases, was for the benefit of the S.A. So far, the Joint Tuberculosis Committee have not availed themselves of the Health Visitor's experience, although she has paid 322 visits to tuberculosis cases. He discussed the Report of the Commission on Venereal Disease, and told me what the County Council were prepared to do, in utilizing existing agencies for the treatment of these affections.

I may mention that a family was reported to me as having Syphilis, and I found they were only suffering from impetigo. I have no accurate knowledge, but from my long connection with this district, I can say that Syphilis is uncommon, though I hear sometimes of Gonorrhœa.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

11th April, 1917.

W. H. T. WINTER.

TABLE I.
TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1916.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				MALES.		FEMALES.	
(CIVILIANS ONLY)							
ALL CAUSES	...	...		32	...		30
Influenza	...	...		1	...		1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...		1	...		6
Tuberculous meningitis	...	...		1	...		1
Other tuberculous diseases	...	...		1	...		1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...		1	...		4
Organic heart disease	...	...		3	...		3
Bronchitis	...	...		2	...		2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		3	...		1
Diarrhœa, &c., (under 2 years)...				1	...		
Alcoholism	...	...		1	...		
Nephritis and Bright's disease				1	...		1
Parturition, apart from puerperal fever					...		1
Congenital debility, &c	...	...		2	...		
Violence, apart from suicide	...	...		2	...		
Other defined diseases	...	...		12	...		9
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age				4	...		1
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...		49	...		54
Legitimate	...	...		48	...		51
Illegitimate	...	...		1	...		3
POPULATION—							
For Death rate	...	...		...	...		5,276
For Birth rate	...	...		...	...		5,740

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.

April, 1917.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE II.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1916, in the Urban District of Tettenhall.

		NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY	
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling houses and Schools	Foul Conditions	34	23	23		23	
	Structural Defects	53	48	48		48	
	Overcrowding	8	4	4		4	
	Unfit for Habitation	23	3	3		3	3
	Dairies and Milkshops	24	12	12		12	
	Cowsheds	38	16	16		16	
	Bakehouses	17	8	8		8	
	Slaughter-houses	53	21	21		21	
	Ashpits and Privies	356	62	62		62	
House Drainage	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	13	5	5		5	
	Water Closets	38	27	27		27	
	Defective Traps	14	12	12		12	
	No Disconnection						
	Other Faults	220	98	98		98	
	Water Supply	35	7	7	7	7	7
	Pigsties	15	4	4	1	4	1
	Animals improperly kept	15	4	4	1	4	1
	Smoke Nuisances	5	5	5		5	
	Other Nuisances	33	24	24		14	
	TOTALS	994	383	383	9	373	12
Samples of Water taken for Analysis							1
,, ,, condemned as unfit for use							1
Precautions against Infectious Disease.							
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed							14
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease							15
Schools ditto ditto							3

NOTE.—When an Inspection or Notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

*Signed, JOHN DENTON,
Inspector of Nuisances*

Date, 28th Feb., 1917.

WOLVERHAMPTON :
PRINTED BY A. WEBB,
CLEVELAND STREET.